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(71) Applicant: ONYX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [US/US]; 3031 Research Drive, Richmond, CA 94806 (US).

(72) Inventors: BISCHOFF, James, R.; 214 Lake Drive, Kesington, CA 94708 (US). NYE, Julie; 954 San Benito Road, Berkeley, CA 94707 (US). LELIA, Ng; 5025 Hiller Lane, Martinez, CA 94553 (US). HORN, Sharon; 3163 Pine Valley Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533 (US). WILLIAMS, Angelica; 1261 Wyoming Street, Golden, CO 80403 (US). KIRN, David; 359 Starling Road, Mill Valley, CA 94941 (US).

(74) Agent: GIOTTA, Gregory; Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 3031 Research Drive, Richmond, CA 94806 (US).

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(54) Title: CYTOPATHIC VIRUSES FOR THERAPY AND PROPHYLAXIS OF NEOPLASIA

(57) Abstract

Methods and compositions for treating neoplastic conditions by viral–based therapy are provided. Mutant virus lacking viral proteins which bind and/or inactivate *p53* or *RB* are administered to a patient having a neoplasm which comprises cells lacking *p53* and/or *RB* function. The mutant virus is able to substantially produce a replication phenotype in non–replicating, non–neoplastic cells having essentially normal *p53* and/or *RB* function. The preferential generation of replication phenotype in neoplastic cells results in a preferential killing of the neoplastic cells, either directly or by expression of a cytotoxic gene in cells expressing a viral replication phenotype.